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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

SYMPOSIUM FOR LAND-LOCKED AND TRANSIT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Policies and actions being taken or envisaged to improve transit transport systems

Contributions by individual countries, and by international and intergovernmental organizations

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in paragraph 12 of its resolution 48/169, invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to organize, in collaboration with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Heads of the regional commissions, a symposium for the land-locked and transit developing countries to address specific regional problems in implementing the recommendations of the Meeting of Governmental Experts from Land-locked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions held in New York in May 1993. In paragraph 14 of the resolution, the General Assembly also urged UNCTAD, as the focal point on cross-regional issues of interest to land-locked developing countries, inter alia, to keep under constant review the evolution of transport-transit infrastructure facilities, institutions and services and to monitor the implementation of agreed measures.

2. As part of the implementation of the above provisions of the resolution, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD addressed a letter to land-locked and transit developing countries as well as to some of the relevant international and intergovernmental organizations involved in transit traffic and trade, requesting them to provide information on the policies and actions that they are taking or envisaging with a view to improving the transit transport systems, taking into account the recommendations made by the above-mentioned Meeting. The letter also pointed out that such information should indicate the difficulties and obstacles that are being encountered in this regard. The replies received by the UNCTAD secretariat are summarized below.

II. SUMMARIES OF REPLIES RECEIVED FROM INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES

Burkina Faso

3. Burkina Faso cooperates with the neighbouring transit countries in the framework of bilateral and subregional transit agreements and arrangements. The Heads of State of ECOWAS signed two conventions designed to regulate transit operations, namely the "Convention sur le transport routier inter Etats" (TIE) (Inter-States Road Transport Convention) and the "Convention sur le transit routier inter-Etats" (TRIE) (Inter-States Road Transit Convention). At the national level, Burkina Faso is undertaking measures to improve the transit systems, including the reduction of road tolls and other controls. At the bilateral level, it has supported coordinated efforts to reduce transit times and costs and to improve the statistical database regarding inter-country transit operations.

Central African Republic

4. The six Heads of State, members of the Central African Customs and Economic Union (UDEAC) agreed in 1994 to take measures to improve the current transit system in the subregion. The Central African Republic took the initiative to set up specific working groups to make recommendations regarding new arrangements to improve customs procedures and practices, the organization of the international road transport system, the transit bond guarantee system and the conditions of the vehicles involved in the transit operations.

Djibouti

5. The Djibouti Government is making efforts to develop its container terminal into a regional maritime facility for handling transit goods. In December 1993, the Government signed a Convention in Addis Ababa to this effect. This Convention outlines a number of facilitating measures, including tariff reduction for transit cargo. There are, however, still problems related to the poor implementation of agreed measures. Furthermore, the rail and road facilities leading to the port are inadequate. There is, therefore, a need for efficient multimodal transport systems that effectively link the port to the neighbouring countries.

Ghana

6. Ghana, as a transit country, has adopted a number of policy measures and initiated some actions to assist neighbouring land-locked countries. These include, inter alia, on-going internal consultations to simplify customs documentation and administrative procedures; the review of customs administrative charges on transit cargo; the allocation of adequate land to Mali and Burkina Faso for the development of facilities at the Tema Harbour; the development of an inland waterways transport facility as well as the construction and rehabilitation of relevant road linkages. Action is also being initiated to create a free port regime for the port of Tema that would facilitate the flow of transit traffic to the land-locked countries, and to develop an Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) system. An open-door policy has been pursued, aiming at liberalizing most of Ghana's economic activities including transport and communication services. Financial constraints on the implementation of most of the transport plans, cumbersome customs procedures and the absence of an institutional framework to monitor the implementation of bilateral agreements are the main obstacles to the development of the transit system.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

7. The Australian funded "Friendship Bridge" over the Mekong, which was opened in early 1994, is the first one to connect Thailand and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Moreover, a series of meetings between the two countries are being conducted to enhance bilateral cooperation with respect to all forms of transport links. A memorandum on cooperation in communications for 1994 was signed between the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam, which describes priority road connections between the two countries, in particular those allowing Lao People's Democratic Republic to use the facilities in ports in Viet Nam. In January 1994, an agreement was also signed in Kunming between China, Myanmar, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Thailand which will provide for two-way navigation on part of the Mekong river.

Malawi

8. The Malawi Government continues to participate, under regional arrangements like PTA and SADC, in transit traffic facilitation as well as entering into bilateral agreements. Malawi is committed to cooperating with

its transit neighbours in removing problems related to poor formulation and weak monitoring of implementation and settlement of disputes with respect to such aspects as transit routes by rail, road and inland-waterways, customs documentation and procedures, bonding guarantee systems, storage facilities for goods in transit, road maintenance regimes, road user charges and procedures for clearing and forwarding. More specifically, Malawi has initiated action on a number of issues, such as, inter alia, the restructuring of the railways in an effort to move to a more aggressive market-oriented management, plans for the establishment of a road fund to be used specifically for the maintenance of the roads, the implementation of PTA harmonized transit charges, carrier licences, and harmonized axle-load limits, and a 24-hour-a-day service at the borders. Furthermore, with USAID assistance a national transport policy framework has been drafted, which aims at developing a coordinated transport system, in a market-oriented approach, and a sound base for the various carriers to provide reliable, efficient and economic services to the people. However, Malawi recognizes that there is an acute shortage of trained human resources in the country to meet the requirements of transit operations at all levels. Human resource development programmes are therefore a priority in the development of transport.

9. On the whole, Malawi feels that most of the recommendations of the Meeting of the Governmental Experts from Land-locked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions held in May 1993 in New York are yet to be implemented. It is regrettable that some transit countries have not shown the appropriate willingness in that respect. Some countries have instituted stringent policies governing transit traffic to the detriment of the economies of land-locked countries. Lack of cooperative efforts on the part of some neighbouring transit countries and lack of commitment to the implementation of bilateral or regional agreements reached in the relevant institutional fora continue to be major impediments in the improvement of transit systems.

Mali

10. The Malian economy is heavily constrained by the high transit costs which it incurs on the movement of its import and export cargoes. These transport costs are estimated at 8 per cent of the GDP and they represent about 30 per cent of the total import costs. Mali has signed a number of bilateral and multilateral agreements with its neighbouring countries, including the TIE and TRIE Conventions (cf. para. 3 above). These agreements allow for the use of port facilities under the management of Malian agencies. Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal provide the port facilities for Malian cargo and special arrangements have been agreed upon with these transit countries with regard to customs documentation and procedures and other related facilities. It is important to note that, in response to General Assembly resolution 48/169, Côte d'Ivoire suspended the traditional payment of a special fee for the certificate that is required to accompany vehicles transporting transit goods to Mali (Lettre de Voiture). Furthermore, Mali established a national committee for the follow-up of the activities of the now terminated UNDP/UNCTAD subregional transit transport project. Mali also drew up an investment programme for the transport sector for the period 1994-1998, for which donor financing is being sought.

Senegal

11. Senegal provides transit facilities for Mali's transit traffic. In order to facilitate the transit services for Malian goods, a bilateral treaty was signed with Mali related to international rail/road transit which will soon be ratified. At the subregional level, Senegal also signed the TRIE Convention within the framework of ECOWAS. It also holds regular consultations with its neighbouring countries with a view to streamlining transit formalities and procedures.

Swaziland

12. A multilateral agreement which has been concluded within the framework of the Southern African Customs Union has considerably facilitated the transit of goods through the Republic of South Africa, and the conclusion of an agreement with Mozambique is seriously being considered. Transit and international road routes and rail facilities in Swaziland are reasonably maintained and operated. Development of the transport sector is, however, being affected by scarce trained human resources and inefficient institutional capacities. A fairly adequate transit system exists in South Africa. However, the transit facilities in Mozambique are poor and not reliable. The corridor connecting Swaziland to the sea ports in Mozambique, which offers the potential for significant reduction in transit costs, is under-utilized at present. Technical assistance is required to facilitate discussions on various transit transport issues between Mozambique and Swaziland.

Uganda

13. Uganda's transit network includes the Northern and Central corridor transit axes. Mechanisms, such as the Joint Consultation Committees at the bilateral level between Uganda and each of the transit/land-locked countries, are in place to ensure that the relevant rules are implemented. Poor road infrastructure is no longer a problem for transit traffic through Uganda. There is need, however, to harmonize the regulations pertaining to inland waterways transport systems, especially for Lake Victoria. The Uganda Railways Co-orporation (URC) has adequate locomotives and general purpose wagons. Nevertheless, arrangements are under way to alleviate the situation relating to the lack of tankers and container wagons.

14. Issues pertaining to faster transit of goods across borders are being addressed through, inter alia, the creation of a modern customs facility at Malaba and the installation of the Advanced Cargo Information System (ACIS). The Government intends to set up an Inland Dry Port in Uganda, with a view to minimizing the delays associated with customs and clearance procedures.

15. Transport infrastructure rehabilitation and maintenance for the transit network is one of the major priorities in the Public Investment Programme in Uganda. Furthermore, the Government has reduced its intervention in transit transport operations as part of its policy to liberalize trade and transport.

Zambia

16. With regard to policies and actions to improve intraregional transit trade, Zambia supports the simplification and harmonization of customs and administrative documentation, including the implementation of the Road Customs Transit Document (RCTD), which is designed to facilitate and expedite road traffic operations. Zambia also attaches great importance to action by PTA and SADC member States in the following areas: rehabilitation and maintenance of the transport infrastructure, the establishment of dry-ports to speed up transit time, the implementation of the regional bond guarantee scheme, gradual relaxation of visa requirements, accession to the harmonized commodity description and coding system, lifting of export and import duties on transit traffic and the development of bonded warehouses.

III. SUMMARIES OF REPLIES RECEIVED FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) 1/

17. Land-locked countries have benefited from specific action in the area of transport and communications to ease the flow of transit traffic at regional or subregional levels. Under the on-going project related to the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II) the ECA is required to coordinate and facilitate the consolidation and establishment of a network of transport corridors through appropriate mix of transport modes, including those that serve the interests of land-locked countries. A survey of transit costs for transit transport is to be conducted on a subregional basis and various seminars in the field of road transport have been convened to help these countries in identifying the main problems associated with road deterioration and poor maintenance of truck and transit roads, as well as in strengthening human resources capabilities within the transport and communications sector. ECA has also prepared studies and technical publications on subjects such as the development of inland container terminals, the evaluation of railway transport services and the development of freight forwarding, which are being used by transit countries in the management and planning of their transit transport operations.

18. ECA is also carrying out activities which benefit land-locked countries in such fields as statistics and data processing, food and agriculture, industry and human settlements, marine affairs, water and energy resources.

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) 2/

19. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) supports South America's two landlocked countries - Bolivia and Paraguay - in their efforts to improve transport and customs transit facilities across neighbouring countries for access to seaports. ECLAC's assistance in this area is carried out both at a multilateral and bilateral level. Bolivia in particular has been the recipient of such assistance. ECLAC recently collaborated with UNCTAD in preparing a proposal to install the rail component (RailTracker) of UNCTAD's Advanced Cargo Information System (ACIS) to handle traffic between Arica (Chile) and La Paz. Bolivia and Chile are currently seeking financing for this project. In the other two cases, ECLAC helped Bolivia to formulate and negotiate separate agreements with Chile and Peru to

facilitate transit operations to and from certain ports on the Pacific Ocean. These operations are carried out within the framework of the "Integrated Transit System" (SIT), whereby goods imported to Bolivia through Chile or Peru can automatically be transshipped to the railways for onward movement without additional customs procedures.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) 3/

20. There are all together 12 land-locked countries in the ESCAP region, namely: Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Nepal, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The efforts of the ESCAP secretariat to assist the land-locked and transit countries of the region have been mainly focused on land transport, transit arrangements, environment and natural resource management, technical development and trade promotion. In order to further enhance the trade of its member countries within and outside the region, the ESCAP secretariat promotes regional and subregional cooperation for the development of land transport infrastructure in Asia, including land-locked countries. In this regard, the proposed project on Asian Land-locked Transport Infrastructure Development (ALTID) is expected to make a major contribution to development of transport infrastructure in the region.

21. Resolution 48/11 adopted by the Commission recommended the accession of all its members to major international conventions in the field of transport facilitation. Regarding facilitation of rail freight traffic, the ALTID project will focus not only on the southern route linking Europe and South East Asia but also on the northern route providing a Europe-Asia transport alternative with a competitive edge over the existing sea transport routes. It is planned that this railway line will be operational by 1997.

22. A number of land-locked and transit countries of the region are signatory to several international conventions on transit traffic such as the Convention and Statute on Freedom of Transit and the Convention on Transit Trade of Land-locked States. Bilateral transit agreements also exist between some of the land-locked countries of the region and their transit neighbours. The development of a regional transit treaty that could be used as a model by all countries could further improve the transit system. In this connection, the ESCAP secretariat is exploring the possibility of assisting interested countries in developing such an agreement.

23. ESCAP activities also focus on problems confronting the land-locked countries regarding the development of food processing, in particular deficiencies in the storage and transport systems. Technical assistance for trade promotion of the land-locked countries has traditionally been accorded priority attention in the secretariat's mandate relating to international trade.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

24. The International Telecommunication Union is aware of the communication needs of the land-locked developing countries, particularly their national and external telecommunication needs for overall development in general and for the enhancement and management of transport systems in particular. In Africa,

the Pan African Telecommunication Network (PANAFTEL) was developed to facilitate intra-African communication and trade and any telecommunication links between land-locked countries and their neighbours with access to the sea. The network provided very useful services in managing and controlling these systems. Telecommunication facilities of all sorts are therefore of great value to land-locked countries.

The World Bank 4/

25. Since the World Bank is already active in many of the landlocked developing countries, it has the potential to play an important role in successfully contributing to the development of the transport systems of these countries, particularly with regard to the facilitation of access to import and export markets. The Bank's basic operational goals of poverty alleviation and food security are dependent on improving the reliability of transit operations. While the Bank has no policy specifically addressing the problems of landlocked countries, most relevant issues are covered in broader policies related to transport and trade facilitation, and fall within the broader approach encouraging a broader commercial orientation and promoting competitiveness in transport services. The Bank has undertaken a number of regional studies aimed at gaining a better understanding of the magnitude of the problems in land-locked developing countries and enhancing efforts to facilitate regional trade development. On the operational level, it has approved several projects in Africa which put special emphasis on linking up land-locked developing countries with their transit neighbours.

IV. SUMMARIES OF REPLIES RECEIVED FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

26. One of the main objectives of ECOWAS is to put in place an integrated, coordinated, efficient and responsive transit system within the Community which should meet the long-term needs for socio-economic development of the subregion. The weak implementation and reinforcement of agreed protocols, however, is a major impediment in improving transit systems. For example, it has been observed that agreed customs procedures related to the Protocol on Inter-State Road Transit (ISRT) are not followed and, as a result, there are increased delays in the movement of cargo. With respect to the guarantee mechanism for inter-State road transit of goods established by the Commmunity, which is aimed at reducing costs and solving the problems related to the escort for vehicles in transit, the Executive Secretariat of ECOWAS has mounted a campaign directed at national administrations and economic operators, with a view to achieving effective application by all member States of the mechanism. As for the single road transport document valid for movement across several countries, the poor coordination of multiple enforcement measures and the frequent violations of the provisions of the agreement by transport operators are still major constraints in the effective implementation of the document.

Ministerial Conference of West and Central African States on Maritime Transport (MINCONMAR)

27. MINCONMAR's maritime policy gives special attention to the particular needs of the land-locked member countries, particularly with respect to transit matters. An ad hoc commission was set up in October 1970 to study the constraints of land-locked countries. Recommendations have been made by the ad hoc Commission regarding, inter alia, the issue of preferential freight rates for land-locked countries, the participation of these countries in port activities and the establishment of institutional bodies such as "shippers councils" and the simplification of the administrative and customs procedures. However, inadequate support by the donor community has made the implementation of the above initiatives difficult. In this regard it is also noted that the UNDP/UNCTAD transit transport project, which was heavily involved in improving the transit systems in the subregion, has had to be discontinued for lack of donors' support.

Permanent Secretariat of the Transit Transport Coordination Authority of the Northern Corridor

28. The Authority's policy with regard to infrastructure includes the enforcement of axle load limits for transit vehicles; more extensive use of rail for transit traffic; the establishment of Inland Container Depots (IDCs); and the improvement of road safety on transit routes. So far as the non-physical aspects of transit transport are concerned, efforts are being made to reduce transit costs and transit time by the formulation and follow-up of a number of measures with regard to customs formalities for containers, harmonization of working hours and joint controls at transit adjacent customs posts. Improvement of the efficiency of the Road Customs Transit Document (RCTD) is also sought. Furthermore, the abolition of other administrative and statutory impediments to the free flow of transit traffic - such as high transit taxes, police escorts, and reduced permissible transit time - are among the major objectives of the work of the Coordination Authority. The Authority has also initiated measures to develop and improve lake traffic operations, and the training for the various groups of operators involved in transit transport.

Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States

29. The original objective of integrating the socio-economic fabric of the PTA through transport and communications continues to be of high priority in the 1990s and beyond, as enunciated in the PTA Trade and Development Strategy adopted by the Tenth Summit of the PTA Authority in January 1992. Between 1982 and 1992, substantial progress has been achieved in rehabilitating and upgrading transport and communication infrastructures that had become unserviceable.

30. Poor road conditions are primarily responsible for high operating costs. However, the efficiency of the industry could be substantially improved by: improving the availability of vehicles and spare parts, improving access to commercial credit, and reducing government regulations and restrictions on market entry. In most member countries of the PTA, priority is traditionally given to the construction of new roads rather than the maintenance of existing

ones. A large part of the network can be saved at a reasonable cost if timely periodic maintenance is undertaken.

31. The PTA programmes on insurance, the use of the single Road Customs Transit Declaration Document (RCTD), the enforcement of standards for axle load limits, the harmonization of road user charges, and the liberalization of the commercial trucking industry have significantly reduced transit related costs and facilitated the movement across frontiers of vehicles and persons.

32. The strategy for the revival of railways focuses on institutional and policy reforms, which include, among others, granting by governments of managerial and commercial autonomy to railways. In the PTA railways strategy for the 1990s and beyond priority is given to the development of railways as the main mode of transport. With respect to multimodal transport, priority is being accorded to investments in appropriate technology that will facilitate the development of containerization. The potential to improve inland waterways transport faces a host of difficulties which make it expensive and inefficient. This is due to lack of policy coordination among bordering countries for the development of waterways. Following a recommendation by the PTA secretariat, four permanent technical committees were established to propose and implement joint regional transport programmes including those related to inland waterways development.

V. CONCLUSIONS

33. The replies summarized in this document came from individual countries, United Nations Economic Commissions and specialized agencies as well as from intergovernmental organizations. Although a much larger number of replies would have been desirable in order to draw firm conclusions, these replies do make general observations which are relevant to the basic issues and problems of transit transport.

34. The replies clearly underline the fact that rail and road services are particularly relevant for transit transport operations. Although physical infrastructure development remains a priority concern for many countries, the removal of non-physical barriers to the smooth movement of transit cargoes is assuming significant importance in the formulation of transit transport policies. This relates largely to the simplification and harmonization of customs and administrative procedures in ports and along the transit transport corridors, as well as to the simplification of other controls for the movement of cargo. Furthermore, railways are now being required to operate more on the basis of commercial criteria. Inter-railway cooperation arrangements are also being increasingly promoted. Investments in road transport infrastructure are directed more towards maintenance than to construction of new roads. Road users are having to make a greater contribution towards the cost of construction and maintenance of roads through the introduction of road user charges.

35. Inter-State cooperation is considered essential for efficient transit transport operations. Bilateral agreements have been the most common instruments for such cooperation. In addition, in Africa, regional agreements within the context of regional integration schemes such as ECOWAS, PTA and UDEAC have been a major vehicle for promoting cooperative arrangements. The

need to ratify international conventions related to transit transport has been recognized, but few countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America have become parties thereto. The scope and content of regional agreements in the framework of ECOWAS and PTA have encompassed broad issues in transit transport, including commitments relating to common road standards, permissible axle load limits, international customs transit regimes and institutional arrangements.

36. On the whole, the implementation of agreed regional standards and practices has been unsatisfactory because of the lack of adequate mechanisms to monitor and enforce the agreed rules and practices. The Northern Corridor Transit Agreement (NCTA) which sets out the terms and conditions for the use of the transit corridor from Mombasa, Kenya, to the land-locked countries of Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi is, perhaps, the most successfully implemented agreement. The agreement created a small secretariat which has been active in reviewing problems arising from implementation of the NCTA and assisting member States to resolve them. Technical assistance from UNCTAD and other international agencies is generally viewed as a critical support measure to improve the efficiency of transit transport operations. The replies from agencies have underlined the continued importance of such assistance.

Notes

1/ The full text of the reply has been issued in UNCTAD/LDC/Misc.30.

2/ The full text of the reply has been issued in UNCTAD/LDC/Misc.28.

3/ The full text of the reply has been issued in UNCTAD/LDC/Misc.27.

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Symposium for Land-locked and Transit Developing Countries

THE IMPROVEMENT OF TRANSIT TRANSPORT SYSTEMS IN LAND-LOCKED AND TRANSIT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: BASIC OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

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INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 12 of its resolution 48/169 of 21 December 1993, the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to organize in collaboration with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the executive heads of the regional economic commissions, a symposium for land-locked and transit developing countries to address specific regional problems in implementing the recommendations of the Meeting of Governmental Experts from the Land-locked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions held in New York in 1993. These recommendations are contained in document TD/B/40/(1)/2 - TD/B/LDC/A.1/4, which is available to the Symposium as part of the background information. One of the main basic documents for the Symposium is TD/B/LDC/AC.1/2, which was prepared for the above-mentioned meeting. It highlights the basic transit issues which generally are still pertinent. Other background documents which are before the Symposium include five regional/subregional papers covering Asia, Latin America and the Southern, West-Central and East-Central African subregions. 1/ These papers address essentially the country, subregional and regional transit situations, the actions that have been taken to improve transit systems and the problems being encountered in this regard. A synopsis of the regional and subregional transit transport situation and difficulties has also been prepared and is available as one of the basic documents for the Symposium. 2/ The Symposium has also before it the results of specific studies on transit issues, which were prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat and submitted to the Trade and Development Board at its fortieth session pursuant to paragraph 12 of the above-mentioned resolution. 3/ This note contains a summary of basic observations and recommendations to be considered by the Symposium. They draw on past and ongoing work by UNCTAD, including intergovernmental meetings and symposia which have been addressing transit transport issues, and on the background documents mentioned above.

I. ACTION AT THE NATIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL LEVEL

A. Some fundamental observations

2. The main impetus behind transit initiatives in Africa and Latin America has come from regional organizations such as ECA, ECLAC, SATCC in Southern Africa, ECOWAS, UDEAC, MINCONMAR in West-Central Africa, the Northern Corridor Secretariat and CEPGL in East-Central Africa. 4/ In Africa UNCTAD/UNDP technical cooperation projects have also played an important catalytic role.

3. Both coastal and land-locked countries often adopt protectionist measures which hamper transit transport services at regional level and increase their costs. A competitive market where suppliers of transit services are profit-driven will lead to an improvement in the quality of services. In the same regard, there are clear advantages which could accrue from the use of both rail and road services; therefore, policies which enable road and rail to compete fairly in a commercial way for transit traffic need to be given more serious consideration.

4. In order to improve transit security, alternative routes should be developed and maintained to serve land-locked countries. It needs to be stressed, however, that the choice of possible alternative routes should be

made on the basis of a sound cost-benefit analysis. Once the choice has been made, the distribution of cargo to be moved along the various routes should be based on commercial criteria.

5. As transport infrastructure is expensive to create, mechanisms should be developed to ensure good maintenance. The deterioration of transport infrastructure is a general problem which affects land-locked and coastal countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Special attention will, therefore, have to be given to the maintenance of existing facilities and to their effective utilization, and resources should be planned for this purpose.

6. It is, however, not enough to maintain transit transport facilities. With major changes occurring in the organization of international transport at global level, new investments must be made particularly with regard to containerization, since very frequently inefficiencies in transit corridors result in longer transit times, which in turn mean that container turnaround times required by shipping lines cannot be ensured. The installation of efficient handling facilities would make it possible to obtain advance knowledge of transport service availabilities, ensuring smooth and speedy transit.

7. Land-locked and transit countries have taken a number of positive initiatives to coordinate transit transport operations, particularly through the establishment of institutions designed to promote a harmonized approach to resolving transit operational problems (shipper's councils, trade facilitation committees, etc.). These efforts should be fully supported by Governments. The effectiveness of such institutions will be further enhanced by an active involvement of the private sector and the establishment of mechanisms to promote cooperative arrangements between such institutions at the subregional level.

8. Finally, land-locked countries should adopt development strategies that are designed to promote a production and trade structure that is cost-effective as regards transport. Greater support should therefore be given to projects geared towards local production of high-value, low-bulk exports and the import substitution of low-value, high-bulk products.

B. Sectoral considerations

1. Port facilities and services

9. Transport is constantly evolving as new technologies are introduced in the search for more efficient and cost-effective subsystems in the transport chain, for example, containerization and electronic data transfer. Therefore, the ports and the transport corridors of which they are part must constantly adapt their facilities and services to cope with the new technologies.

10. As well as new investments in infrastructure and equipment in the port sector, there is an ongoing requirement to review government objectives and procedures, management structure and responsibility, operating practices and manpower policies, otherwise investment may be wasted.

11. The issue of staffing levels must be addressed and socially acceptable steps taken to reduce the number of port workers as a result of the new

technologies. There is an ongoing requirement for training of staff at all levels in the new procedures and technologies. To improve the level of service, privatization of certain sectors of port activities may merit consideration, depending on local conditions.

12. In parallel with the development of effective customs transit procedures, the establishment of inland clearance depots (ICDs) in the land-locked countries should be promoted in order to facilitate the speedy movement of cargo. Such ICDs would allow the use of block trains.

13. Equipment management is a major concern for ports. Maintenance of equipment is made more difficult by the multiplicity of makes of equipment. In collaboration with donors, steps should be taken to standardize major components such as engines and transmissions to simplify maintenance and reduce the inventory of spare parts required.

14. The procedures for equipment and spare parts procurement need to be reviewed and often the port authority could be allowed to retain some of the foreign exchange earned from port services and given the power to purchase spare parts without central approval.

15. Transit countries should encourage port authorities to seek transit cargoes actively. These efforts should be accompanied by measures to enhance the logistical efficiency of importers and exporters in the land-locked countries, including the provision of storage and handling facilities for transit cargo, improved procedures in ports and lobbying for inland transport services.

16. The management of ports should move towards a more market-oriented policy that seeks to provide flexibility, responsiveness, friendliness and efficiency to its clients. To do this, port authorities should be given greater management authority to effect changes. Often the government control of the port is too heavy.

17. In connection with customs transit procedures, the requirement of a transit traffic bond needs to be reviewed to reduce delay and costs to the users. Other forms of financial guarantee may be more effective for all parties concerned.

2. Road transit facilities and services

18. The harmonization of procedures for road maintenance in transit corridors also calls for full cooperation between land-locked and transit countries. This should include: harmonized road user charges based on the principle that transit traffic, including nationally registered vehicles involved in transit operations, pays for the costs of providing and maintaining the highways used; the allocation of revenue derived from such payments to road maintenance; and the coordinated enforcement of uniform axle-load limits and weighbridges.

19. Governments of land-locked and transit countries should further take measures to harmonize the rules and procedures governing the operation of non-national carriers of transit goods in each other's territory (which currently include permits, licences, and cargo-sharing systems) and the

rationalization of subsidies to national carriers involved in international road transit, in line with regional and subregional policies to liberalize trade and services.

20. Governments should support training programmes to sensitize road hauliers to the relationship between overloading and road deterioration.

3. Rail transit facilities and services

21. The long-term objective should be the creation of a railway network closely coordinated with the trunk road network to avoid wasteful duplication of capacity.

22. Land-locked and transit countries need to give high priority to the maintenance of the rail infrastructure, locomotives and wagons.

23. The recurrent constraints related to sub-optimal wagon turnaround times, inadequacy of locomotive power and rolling stock and poor marshalling facilities should be relieved.

24. There should be a deliberate policy by governments to strengthen or create regional and bilateral rail transit treaties in order to harmonize technical standards and introduce uniform documentation and procedures for the movement of passengers, baggage, cargo, wagons, coaches, and locomotives across national frontiers and in transit across the territory of one or more intervening States. Also required is a framework of agreement on the managerial mechanisms by which this international system should function, and these mechanisms should be market-oriented.

25. Weaknesses in the operational coordination of railways, ports and transit services should be tackled.

4. Inland waterways

26. Land-locked and transit countries should make further efforts to coordinate their activities related to schedules of services, navigational aids, radio communications, inland water transport laws, prevention and control of pollution, safety regulations and the operational interface with road and rail.

5. Air freight

27. Air freighting remains an important alternative to land transit. The facilities for and management of such operations, however, remain very inadequate in most land-locked countries. Increased investment in airport and cargo handling facilities is necessary in order to meet the requirements of modern aircraft; new warehouses are required for storage of transit cargo that requires special facilities because of its particular nature (e.g. perishable or dangerous goods, animals); more effective measures are needed to improve security for transit cargo; and deregulation of air transport should also be given serious consideration.

28. Cooperative ventures and fleet rationalization on a subregional level would eliminate many of the current diseconomies in the air transport industry.

29. Current limitations on air traffic rights should be removed in order to open new air services and promote larger traffic flows on various potential routes.

6. Bilateral, subregional and international transit arrangements and agreements

30. Bilateral and subregional transit arrangements and agreements continue largely to be ineffectively implemented. Further arrangements should be put in place to strengthen the institutional machinery to monitor and enforce the provisions of such agreements and arrangements. At the operational level, executives managing transit transport-related enterprises could have regular consultations to review the day-to-day implementation process, with the participation of users of transit facilities as appropriate.

31. With regard to customs procedures and documentation, the land-locked and transit countries need to harmonize and streamline further, in line with international models of aligned documents. In this respect, countries should revise laws and regulations to allow for the introduction of international instruments to facilitate movements of goods, such as the Kyoto Convention and the Customs Convention on Containers (both administered by the World Customs Organization) and the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (UN/ECE). These efforts should be supported by administrative arrangements to simplify cargo verification procedures, to minimize cargo escort requirements, reduce or eliminate bond charges and synchronize cross-border operations. Institutional arrangements to ensure effective implementation of agreed procedures and documents should be strengthened.

32. Further, subregional cooperation should be established to agree on temporary admission schemes, common customs declaration forms and standard transit documents.

33. An assessment of the international conventions on transit trade and transport and of the number of ratifications or accessions not only highlights their particular relevance to the transit question but also reveals the disconcerting attitude that is still being taken by many countries which are not contracting parties to them. There is clearly an urgent need for greater political support for such conventions, which establish basic principles for cooperative arrangements between land-locked countries and their transit neighbours. Problems of implementation which result from the particular circumstances of certain regions and subregions can always be tackled by negotiation subsequent to signature or ratification. Increased technical assistance by international agencies should therefore be provided as part of the effort to promote an understanding of the relevance of these conventions. Donor agencies should also use their influence to ensure that the transit-transport programmes they support take into account the safeguards embodied in existing international conventions.

7. Freight forwarding services

34. Land-locked and transit countries should make deliberate efforts to improve the quality of services in the freight forwarding sector. The main focus should be on supporting training programmes that are tailored to upgrading the skills of freight forwarders, for example, by using the TRAINMAR course for freight forwarders. Furthermore, the government agencies should move from active involvement in freight forwarding operations to encouraging the role of the private sector, on condition that basic professional requirements are met.

8. Transit insurance

35. There are a number of possible measures to improve the insurance services for land-locked developing countries. The first of these is the local covering of external trade risks whenever this is possible. Such local cover may enable shippers to obtain protection that is tailor-made to their requirements. The second measure is the implementation of loss prevention programmes in cooperation with insurers in the coastal countries. This can be achieved through sharing the business with them on a co-insurance or reinsurance basis. All these and other approaches require, above all, full and effective cooperation among all insurers handling the traffic to and from the land-locked developing countries.

9. Human resources development

36. Transit transport facilities can be more effectively utilized by improving the managerial capacity and skills of the personnel involved in transit operations. It is therefore necessary to carry out more detailed surveys to identify the specific training needs in each country at the different levels. The training programmes should include the training of instructors and the provision of training materials. Where training requires foreign experts, it would be desirable to team them up with local counterparts so as to ensure a smooth transition to self-reliant manpower development.

II. THE ROLE OF EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE

37. The cost implications of many inter-country transit transport investment projects are often of such a magnitude that the countries involved cannot bear the burden alone. External assistance by donor agencies should therefore continue to serve as a catalyst by supporting programmes that promote cooperative arrangements. Priority should be given to transit transport corridor projects in this regard. The United Nations Transport and Communications Decade programmes in Africa and Asia have been making important contributions in this direction. International assistance commitments to these programmes, however, remain very limited.

38. It is especially important that such assistance be sufficiently flexible to ensure the full realization of its potential contribution. This will require an appropriate mix of financial and technical assistance. Technical assistance will be especially needed in the identification and preparation of projects and, in appropriate cases, in exploring suitable joint projects and transit arrangements with neighbours.

39. In order to break the constraints of absorptive capacity, financing arrangements may also need to be accompanied by technical assistance, both in the construction and operating phase of such projects.

40. Further international assistance should be given to national and subregional institutions that are involved in promoting transit cooperation programmes.

41. International donor institutions should continue to support human resources development programmes to meet corridor-specific requirements (roads, railways, ports, telecommunications and inland waterways).

42. UNCTAD and appropriate financial institutions should continue to offer technical assistance in the various areas mentioned above. There are, however, some areas where consideration should be given to enhancing UNCTAD's role in collaboration with other relevant agencies, particularly the regional economic commissions. Such areas include:

- Accumulating, evaluating and disseminating information on transit matters, and drawing lessons from experience in different regions and subregions with regard to the design and improvement of transit systems;

- Carrying out transit-related studies which help decision makers, particularly with a view to identifying critical bottlenecks which could be removed quickly and at minimum cost, in such areas as the analysis of transit costs and their implications, the role of information systems in improving transit operations, improvement of access to markets for the exports of land-locked developing countries, measures to attract foreign investment, and the identification of successful cooperative arrangements;

- Organizing training programmes tailored to the needs of transit policy-makers, managers and operators;

- Monitoring action by the international community related to the transit needs and problems of land-locked developing countries;

- Formulating measures to be adopted at the national, subregional and international levels to improve the transit systems in the light of changing economic and political environments.

NOTES

1/ See UNCTAD/LDC/91, UNCTAD/LDC/93, UNCTAD/LDC/94 and UNCTAD/LDC/90.

2/ See UNCTAD/LLDC/SYMP/4.

3/ See TD/B/40/(1)/4. For a full list of documents available to the Symposium see UNCTAD/LLDC/SYMP/1: Provisional Agenda and Annotations.

4/ For list of abbreviations, see UNCTAD/LLDC/SYMP/4.

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Symposium for Land-locked and Transit Developing Countries

A SUBREGIONAL AND REGIONAL SYNOPSIS OF THE CURRENT TRANSIT TRANSPORT SITUATION AND DIFFICULTIES

Report by the UNCTAD secretariat*

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* The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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Abbreviations

BLS	Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CMEA	(former) Council for Mutual Economic Assistance
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
MOU	memorandum of understanding
NCTA	Northern Corridor Transit Agreement
PTA	Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States
SADCC	Southern African Development Coordination Conference
SATCC	Southern African Transport and Communications Commission
TAZARA	Tanzania Zambia Railway
TIF	Transports internationaux par chemin de fer
TIR	Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets
TRIE	Transport routier inter-Etats
UDEAC	Central African Customs and Economic Union

INTRODUCTION

1. Land-locked developing countries and their transit neighbours have for several years now made deliberate efforts to improve the efficiency of the transit transport systems at the national, subregional and regional level. These efforts have been supported to a great extent by the donor community. The current level of efficiency of transit transport infrastructure and services, however, still varies in the different subregions and regions. This is linked to a significant extent with the political will to foster cooperative arrangements between the land-locked countries and their transit neighbours and the related institutional capability to implement agreed transit transport programmes. Subregional organizations such as SATCC in Southern Africa, ECOWAS and UDEAC in West-Central Africa and NCTA in East-Central Africa and the United Nations regional economic commissions (ECLAC, ECA and ESCAP) have played a pioneering role in supporting these transit transport programmes. UNCTAD, as the focal point for mobilizing international support in favour of land-locked countries and their transit neighbours, has provided the required technical assistance to such programmes, particularly in Africa and Asia.

2. This report makes a brief assessment of the current transit transport situation and the actions that have been taken in the different regions and subregions to improve it, as well as the constraints that have been encountered. 1/

I. AFRICA

A. West-Central Africa

3. The West-African subregion has a very diversified transit traffic system linking five land-locked countries with some nine main transit countries offering a range of transit port and corridor facilities of varying efficiency. Mali has three main transit traffic routes. The two most important are a rail line from Dakar to Bamako, and a road from Abidjan. The third route is by road from the port of Lomé, through Burkina Faso. Improved coordination between the national railway companies of Mali and Senegal, and new rolling stock and locomotives have had a positive impact on the efficiency of the rail route from Dakar but tariffs remain high. On the road route from Abidjan, there are still considerable non-physical barriers which also give rise to delays in the movement of cargo and higher transit costs. Current policy is based on a bilateral convention signed by Mali and Côte d'Ivoire in 1975 which stipulates that two thirds of the traffic by tonnage should be carried by Malian truckers, and one third by Ivorian truckers. This policy has had a restrictive impact on free competition and thus on the quality and cost of services.

4. With regard to storage facilities, the Malian Government has established such facilities in Dakar, Abidjan and Lomé. It is reported that the average dwell time at Abidjan for Malian goods dropped from 90 days to 15 days after the installation of storage facilities; and freight forwarders report that dispatch procedures from Senegal to Bamako by rail are very efficient nowadays. 2/ In spite of these improvements there is a need to further assess the quality of the service provided by these facilities and the cost implications to the shippers. Some concerns have been raised in this respect.

5. Burkina Faso currently uses three main transit transport routes - Ouagadougou-Bobo-Diolasso-Abidjan by rail; the same route by road; and Ouagadougou-Lomé by road. Of the transit traffic, an increasing proportion has throughout the 1980s been carried through Lomé (44 per cent). The port, railway and road infrastructures are generally in good condition. There are no capacity constraints, but there is a need for investment in specific types of infrastructure - such as container terminals and storage areas. Competition between the corridors keeps costs down. Container traffic is growing and Abidjan is better equipped to handle it.

6. Niger also has three major transit routes: the route from Cotonou by rail to Parakou and thence by road to Niamey and other destinations in Niger; the route from Lomé by road to Koupéla in Burkina Faso and then eastward to Niamey; and the route from Lagos via Sokoto. Of the transit traffic, 67 per cent is transported via Cotonou, 23 per cent via Lomé, and 10 per cent via Lagos. The port, railway and road infrastructure is now generally in good condition with the capacity to meet traffic needs in the immediate future. However, there has been a widespread practice of imposing vehicle escorts and many unwarranted stoppages of trucks along the roads. Transit through Nigeria is hampered by the absence of a satisfactory working agreement with the Nigerian Government on transit traffic. Overall there has been a major unidirectional imbalance in Niger's transit traffic through both Cotonou and Lomé.

7. Chad has virtually only one route to the sea - through Cameroon to the port of Douala, by road or a combination of road and rail. While there are other potential routes through Nigeria, there is no transit agreement between Chad and Nigeria and certain types of traffic are prohibited. The road infrastructure along the corridors is badly in need of improvement. The main constraints on traffic are delays in the port of Douala, repeated official and unofficial stopping of vehicles on the road in Cameroon, and time-consuming documentation procedures.

8. The Central African Republic is served by two principal overland transit routes. The traditional transit route is the trans-equatorial route, a rail/river route via the port of Pointe Noire. This involves river transport over the Oubangui and Congo rivers to Brazzaville and then rail to the port. The second route is by road, or rail and road to the port of Douala in Cameroon. On the Douala route there are no serious physical constraints. The railway to Belabo and Ngaoundéré has ample line capacity, but there are deficiencies in transshipment facilities at Belabo. Some non-physical barriers such as the requirement of vehicle escorts are also an impediment to the movement of cargo. On the Pointe Noire route, the Oubangui River is a serious physical constraint because navigation is closed for four months of the year, from February to May, and restricted for two months after this period. Two studies have so far been commissioned for the construction of regulating dams at Mobaye, about 400 km upstream from Bangui, and at Talambo, 75 km upstream from Bangui, to ensure year-round navigation. 3/

9. At the subregional level, efforts have been made to facilitate the movement of transit cargoes. Within ECOWAS the facilitation of international road transport has included the following:

> (i) agreement on a protocol on the establishment of the ECOWAS Brown Card relating to vehicle third party liability insurance; (ii) the TRIE convention (transport routier inter-Etats) which establishes the use of a carnet and guarantee bonds, and outlines clearly the re-export procedures; (iii) the convention relating to inter-State road transit goods, which allows transit free of duties, taxes and minimum restrictions and (iv) an agreement on the harmonization of highway legislation. The UDEAC treaty embraces several protocol agreements and conventions on trade and transport and includes the "transport simplifié" clause, which still needs to be implemented effectively. 4/

10. The TRIE convention is intended to be a regional adaptation of the TIR convention. 5/ It was ratified by Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo in 1982 and since then a version has also been ratified in ECOWAS. However, in practice the TRIE convention is not applied by a key coastal transit State, Côte d'Ivoire, on the grounds that it will not prevent extensive fraud, and complex and nationally-specific procedures are retained by the other coastal transit countries, alongside the use of the TRIE carnet. In the subregion those customs procedures are supplemented by multiple checkpoints on the road, a customs escort of trucks and vigorous inspection of goods. The non-refundable contributions to a guarantee fund required by the TRIE system constitute 0.25 per cent of the c.i.f. value in Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger and Togo, and 0.50 per cent of the c.i.f. value in Mali.

11. The transit system within UDEAC is less cumbersome for goods in transit through the Congo, but in Cameroon clearing goods from the port of Douala is complicated by the requirement that some of the documents must be verified in the capitals of Chad and the Central African Republic and in Yaoundé. Furthermore, customs officials occasionally escort goods to the frontier, and along the road there are numerous police checks for trucks. At present, within the framework of the UDEAC regional structural adjustment programme, plans are being drawn up for an improved regional customs transit system. A key feature of current proposals is the identification of, and agreement upon, a network of regional transit routes and the adoption of a modified TIR system for road transit operations. 6/

12. With regard to rail transit, the procedure based on the International Convention to Facilitate the Crossing of Frontiers for Goods Carried by Rail (TIF) is currently applied in the Dakar-Bamako and Abidjan-Ouagadougou corridors. In the former case an agreement was concluded in September 1990; in the latter, the procedures were only applied to imports to Burkina Faso until July 1991, but now imports and exports can be carried by rail in this way. In the agreement between the Governments of Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire, customs brokers authorized by SCFB (the Burkina Faso railway company) and SCFI (the Côte d'Ivoire railway company) and approved by the customs authorities of each country, are the only ones authorized to use the TIF procedure. They are exempted from paying any guarantee.

13. In summary, the subregion still faces serious problems that undermine the efficiency of the transit traffic system. These are mainly the still underdeveloped state of transit traffic physical infrastructure, the ineffective and largely unimplemented legal and administrative framework governing the movement of cargo along the various transit corridors, poor management and operational coordination between the transit systems in the land-locked countries and the transit countries, and weak institutions and unskilled personnel involved in transit traffic operations.

B. East-Central Africa

14. The transit routes used by Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda focus on the ports of Mombasa and Dar es Salaam. The distribution of traffic between the routes varied throughout the 1980s, as transporters and governments responded to changing conditions and the problems associated with the civil strife in Uganda, the political conflict between Burundi and Rwanda, and the periodic political tensions between Uganda and Kenya. A major aim of the governments of the land-locked countries has, therefore, been to diversify transit routes in order to provide transit security. Since 1987, the EEC alone has committed over 200 million ECUs to the road transit corridors linking the port of Mombasa to the land-locked countries of Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda.

15. With regard to transit regulations, the Northern Corridor Transit Agreement (NCTA) established a single road transit document for the corridor from Mombasa to Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda. The system has also been adopted throughout the PTA. 7/ The use of this document is, however, supplemented by a transit bond which has to be arranged separately in each country. Depending on the commodity, the bond can add 1 to 2 per cent of the c.i.f. value to the cost of transit. 8/ Despite this there remains a high level of verification of containers in the ports. There is also police control of

truck movements at checkpoints along the road. Following a series of intergovernmental consultations organized by the UNDP/UNCTAD subregional transit transport project in consultation with the NCTA Permanent Secretariat, considerable progress has, however, been made during the last three years in streamlining the transit documentation and reducing the transit times.

16. In the Central Corridor linking the land-locked countries with the port of Dar es Salaam, transit goods are carried under a transit pass which is cancelled when goods leave the United Republic of Tanzania and transit containers are not opened or inspected at Dar es Salaam. Efficiency at the port also increased in the late 1980s. The major problems in the Central Corridor routes are: (a) the urgent need for rehabilitation of road and rail infrastructure, and extra storage facilities for containers at the port, and (b) capacity constraints which limit the effectiveness of Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC). TRC has, for example, only some 30 specialized wagons to carry containers. In terms of infrastructure, many projects are in place to rehabilitate and upgrade roads, railways and terminals. The European Union is providing block trains for the transit traffic in the Central Corridor. The maintenance of infrastructure is of major importance. For roads, overloading of trucks is all-pervasive. The enforcement of axle load limits will help.

C. Southern Africa

17. The southern African region includes six land-locked countries - Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The ports which should be available for transit traffic are: Durban, Richards Bay, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town (all in South Africa); Maputo, Nacala and Beira (in Mozambique); Dar es Salaam (United Republic of Tanzania); and Lobito (Angola). Because of the political situation in Angola, the port of Lobito has been closed since 1975; since the early 1980s the Mozambican ports have also been seriously constrained by the political upheavals in the country; the corridors to the ports have been under constant threat of attack by insurgents. The Maputo line from Zimbabwe and the Nacala line from Malawi are at present being rehabilitated and reopened but progress is slow. With the political changes in South Africa, the relative importance of the various ports in the subregion is going to undergo significant changes.

18. In the late 1980s, Zambia pursued a policy of shifting transit traffic away from South Africa. About 85 per cent of the main export, copper, was transported via Dar es Salaam and 15 per cent via Beira in 1988. This policy was, however, followed only at high economic cost. A major problem for importers and exporters in Zambia has been congestion and hence long transit times in the Dar es Salaam corridor. One of the causes of this congestion was inefficiency in port operations but the situation has now improved considerably. Capacity constraints remain on the TAZARA railway, and there are operational difficulties on Zambia Railways. The latter are associated with the scarcity of foreign exchange, a critical shortage of locomotives, unmaintained track, and problems of managing a railway system with a strong unidirectional imbalance in traffic flows. Congestion has also been compounded by the seasonal bunching of arrivals of bulky imports (especially fertilizers, wheat and maize).

19. More than 95 per cent of Malawi's export and import traffic used to go through the ports of Beira and Nacala in Mozambique, mainly in conjunction with rail haulage. In 1982-1983, insurgency forced closure of these routes and traffic had to be diverted via South Africa. The shortest route to Durban is 2,500 km and it entails passing through three other countries. In 1987, some 550,000 metric tons (63 per cent of all Malawi's imports and exports) were transported by this route, with insurgents sometimes disrupting the Tete Corridor leg, requiring a further detour through Zambia and thus adding 1,177 km to the journey.

20. An important development for Malawi has been the opening of the Northern transport corridor through the port of Dar es Salaam. This US$ 113 million investment project has entailed rehabilitation and improvement of roads in the United Republic of Tanzania and in Malawi, construction of Malawi cargo centres at Dar es Salaam and Mbeya for handling dry cargo and fuel, procurement of tank wagons and tank containers, acquisition of a container vessel to provide a regular service between Chilumba and Chipoka ports on Lake Malawi, and upgrading these ports to provide efficient container- and fuel-handling capacity. The UNDP/UNCTAD transit transport project in the region has contributed to the development of guidelines for removing the non-physical barriers along this route through a comprehensive study of the management and operational bottlenecks. More assistance in this area is, however, still required.

21. Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland (BLS) are almost entirely dependent on ports in South Africa for their trade routes. For Lesotho, which is completely surrounded by South Africa, this is inevitable. For Botswana, the southern part of the country is closest to ports in South Africa, and these are the ports used for the main overseas exports (beef and copper-nickel matte). Botswana's main export, diamonds, is air-freighted. Swaziland, like other countries in southern Africa, has experienced major disruptions in its transit traffic since the early 1980s. At that time, Maputo was the port used for about 67 per cent of the country's overseas imports and exports. By the late 1980s, the only commodities using the port were bulky, low-value goods being shipped on a limited scale - some of Swaziland's sugar and coal. Other exports, including pulp and some new manufactured exports, such as decorative timber shelving, were being exported via South Africa.

22. A major problem for BLS countries has been the limited access of their road hauliers to the South African market. However, in September 1990, these countries succeeded, after protracted negotiations, in signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with South Africa. The MOU eliminates the system whereby the BLS operators, under very rigorous rules, had first to apply for a permit to operate in South Africa, and it essentially provides more scope to the BLS countries to move more transit traffic. However, in order for those countries to benefit fully from the enlarged quotas of vehicles permitted to operate in South Africa, their road haulage industry needs to be significantly upgraded. 9/ The extent to which road hauliers can compete for traffic is also limited by the regulatory policy of South Africa designed to divert a larger share of traffic to the railways.

23. Zimbabwe's transit traffic passes through ports in South Africa and Mozambique (Beira and Maputo). The Beira Corridor has been kept open with army protection. With the positive political developments in Mozambique, however, a normal movement of transit traffic can now be anticipated. A novel institutional mechanism for coordination of transit traffic is the Beira Corridor Authority and the associated Beira Corridor Group - which is working well.

24. In an overall context, a mechanism has been established by SADCC to mobilize resources for international transport projects in the southern Africa subregion. In this framework, investment projects to rehabilitate railways are actively coordinated with projects to rehabilitate and develop ports, to improve roads and to invest in telecommunication facilities, through six major transport corridors focusing on the ports of Dar es Salaam (United Republic of Tanzania), Nacala, Beira and Maputo (Mozambique), Lobito (Angola) and Walvis Bay (Namibia). SATCC, the transport arm of SADCC, has made comprehensive forecasts of traffic on international routes under various scenarios 10/ and 10-year development plans have been drawn up for some of the corridors.

II. ASIA

25. The land-locked developing countries of Asia are Afghanistan, Bhutan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia and Nepal. The major trade and transit corridors for Afghanistan have been: (a) through the former USSR by using the northern ports of Hairaton, Sherkhan Bander, and Turghundi, all linked by the former Soviet Union railway network to their western, northern and eastern seaports; (b) through Iran by railway from the Iranian border to the Persian Gulf ports of Bandar Abbas, Bandar Khomeni and Khorramshar - this route also affords direct road access through Turkey overland to Europe; (c) through Pakistan by the port of Karachi linked by railway to the Khyber Pass road to Peshawar and the south-east road to the border point of Chaman where the goods are transported by truck to Afghan border points. Owing to the inadequate infrastructure and services along the route to the sea, there are now a number of problems with the use of the port of Karachi, in particular congestion and shortage of wagons for the carriage of Afghan imports and exports.

26. Bhutan's main access to sea is through the port of Calcutta in India. Owing to the dominance of trade with India, however, transit traffic is relatively small. The transit arrangements with India have greatly facilitated transit traffic, particularly thanks to the highly simplified procedures. Goods are moved to and from the port overwhelmingly by road, with Indian carriers dominating the haulage industry. An alternative transit route is through India to Bangladesh. Bhutan's trade agreement with India also covers its transit trade passing through the territory of India. Transit formalities and procedures are largely satisfactory but communication links between the port of Calcutta and border points are poor. There is a separate agreement with Bangladesh governing the use of port facilities in that country by Bhutan. Bhutan has no container facilities.

27. Nepal's main transit country is India. Access to the sea is provided by the Indian port of Calcutta and the adjacent port of Haldia and also by crossing India to Bangladesh, where the ports of Chittagong and Mokhla may be used. The use of the latter route via the Indian railway system is less cost-effective and Nepal is seeking access to Bangladesh by road. The delays in the movement of transit cargo are largely due to the fact that goods carried by rail to Nepal have to be transshipped from broad-gauge to metre-gauge railways. Customs procedures at the Nepal border also need to be streamlined. Communication links between border towns and Calcutta are also very weak. There are no container depots in or near Nepal. Inadequate equipment to handle transit cargo at transshipment points is a serious constraint.

28. India provides a wide range of transit facilities to Nepal which include warehousing at Calcutta port, unrestricted use of Nepalese private commercial vehicles for transport to and from the ports of Calcutta and Haldia, and the provision of 22 land customs stations for transit trade with third countries. The use of such facilities is governed by the India/Nepal transit treaty, which was renewed in 1991. Nepal has a separate transit agreement with Bangladesh.

29. An important initiative by the Indian Government to improve the transit transport infrastructure for Bhutan and Nepal has been the launching of a

massive scheme to convert all the existing metre-gauge line to broad gauge by the end of the year 2000. A Nepalese initiative also involves the development of a multimodal transit facilitation project, which envisages the extension of the railway line from Raxaul to Birgung and the setting up of an inland container depot at Birgung.

30. The two principal ports used by the Lao People's Democratic Republic for international trade are Bangkok (Thailand) and Da Nang (Viet Nam). Generally trade with the former CMEA countries passes through Da Nang and with other countries through Bangkok. For cargo transiting through Bangkok, the most significant delays occur with import cargoes in the port. Port of Bangkok procedures require that goods first be delivered to general customs storage areas and then subsequently to bonded in-transit warehouses. Substantial storage and demurrage charges are therefore incurred. Cargo is stored until it is reloaded on to Thai trucks or the railway for Bangkok. Transit through Viet Nam has been difficult because of the poor condition of east-west roads as a result of user damage. Although the road from Da Nang to the southern region of Laos has been repaired, the movement of goods along this route and through central and northern Laos is still hampered by poor roads and the fact that navigation on the river route is restricted for three to four months of the year. There are also serious shortages of experienced managers and skilled technicians. It is to be noted that the opening of the Friendship Bridge over the Mekong river between the Lao PDR and Thailand in April 1994 will be a boon for transit traffic.

31. The bulk of Mongolia's transit cargo is moved by rail through the ports of Nakhodka and St. Petersburg in the Russian Federation. The route via the trans-Siberian railway to Nakhodka maintains a regular traffic. The cargo going to European countries is moved all the way by rail. For goods destined for Western Europe, wagons have to be exchanged at those stations where the broad-gauge railways of East European countries connect with the gauge of Western Europe.

32. With respect to the newly independent developing land-locked States of Central Asia, the following preliminary observations can be made. 11/

33. A comprehensive and highly developed transport network, covering all the major means of transport (road, rail, air and inland waterways), connected all the major towns and cities, ports and harbours, and centres of economic activity of the former Soviet Union. The Central Asian republics shared in this network linking them to the rest of the Union, with which they conducted the bulk of their trade and other economic relations. With the break-up of the Soviet Union and the resulting need and desire of the republics to seek out alternative trade links with foreign countries, the question of the adequacy of the existing transport network to meet the new requirements has become a matter of prime concern. This is especially so for the Central Asian republics in view of their geographic isolation and their new-found status of being land-locked States.

34. In the former Soviet Union the railway was the most widely used mode for freight traffic, accounting (if pipelines are excluded) for nearly 70 per cent of total freight (ton-km). A centrally administered railway system, covering some 150,000 km of track, linked all the various parts of the vast territory. Since it was the policy to make railways the principal means of transport, and

in view also of the policy to promote the economic integration of all the parts of the Union, railway tariffs were kept relatively low in terms of the prevailing price structures. This policy helped especially to encourage use of the railways for transport of the low-value bulk products that tended to loom large in the trade of the Central Asian republics.

35. With the break-up of the Union, however, and the increased autonomy secured by the individual republics, the situation changed radically. For one thing, the railway network was broken up, the administration decentralized, and the rolling stock divided up among the individual republics. Furthermore, with economic integration no longer a political imperative, and with the emergence and spread of free market principles and cost-based pricing, the trend has been towards significant increases in railway tariffs. In addition, now that the republics are no longer linked by a common currency, an entirely new problem has arisen for users of the new decentralized railways, namely, that of the means of payment for transport services outside the territory of the individual republics. The problem has become a serious one, given the difficult financial situation of most republics and the resulting weakness of their newly established currencies. It has led to a large backlog of unpaid bills and to severe inconvenience for both the users of transport services and the railway administrations.

36. Central Asian republics also face the problem of obtaining spare parts for their rolling stock, most of which come from other republics, giving rise to additional payments problems. This is a problem that affects other republics of the former Soviet Union as well, being a consequence of the pattern of production specialization that prevailed in the past. Another problem is the shortage of fuel in some republics, particularly Ukraine and Belarus, which has sometimes disrupted rail traffic.

37. For the newly independent land-locked States of Central Asia, the issues of most immediate concern as regards use of the existing CIS rail network are the distances involved in reaching the transit ports, and the cost of transport. Three main rail corridors may be identified, based on the general geographic location of the transit port: that leading to the Russian Far Eastern ports, e.g., Vladivostock, Nakhodka; that leading to North European ports, e.g., St. Petersburg (Russian Federation), Riga (Latvia); and that leading to the Black Sea ports, e.g., Odessa, Sevastopol (Ukraine), Novorossiysk (Russian Federation). In addition, there is also the possibility of direct rail transport to Western European markets through Eastern and Central Europe. The rail corridor to the Russian Far Eastern ports involves distances of 10,000 to 11,000 km, that to the North European ports 8,000 to 9,000 km, and to the Black Sea ports 6,000 to 7,000 km.

38. Direct rail transport to Western Europe would involve distances of 10,000 km or more. These are long distances, especially where the purpose is only to reach a port of transshipment preparatory to a sea voyage. It is therefore to be expected that the cost of transport using these routes will be high. The information available indicates that, for some of the major raw material products exported by the Central Asian republics, the cost of rail transport to the CIS port of transshipment currently amounts to anything up to about 40 per cent of the f.o.b. value of the product.

39. The road network in the former Soviet Union is also fairly well developed. It has never, however, played a major role in freight transport, due no doubt to the long distances involved and to the priority that official policy has always given to the railways. And for the bulky raw material products traded by the Central Asian republics the railway would seem to be the natural choice. But the situation has been changing. For one thing, the rail tariffs have increased considerably (in relative terms) in the recent past, and are likely to increase further as market-based prices are increasingly adopted, thereby encouraging use of alternative modes of transport. This is likely to be especially relevant for the land-locked Central Asian States, which now must pay in foreign exchange for the use of these long railway transit corridors. For them, the alternative of using road vehicles owned and operated by them, and involving therefore only minimal foreign exchange outlays (for petrol en route, etc.), must seem increasingly attractive. This is an option that Kyrgyzstan in particular seems to be actively pursuing, bearing especially in mind that only a very small portion of the rail system is in its territory (the mountainous nature of the country largely accounts for this), and hence that almost all use of the railways has to be paid for in scarce foreign exchange.

40. It seems likely therefore that there will be increasing reliance on road transport to gain access to distant CIS ports. One problem facing road transport users that is currently a cause of great concern involves security en route. It is apparently now often necessary for heavy goods vehicles to be accompanied by armed guards, which only adds to the cost of transport. Efforts are being made to deal with this problem within the framework of the CIS Council on Road Use Coordination.

III. LATIN AMERICA

41. Ports on the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans constitute the main outlets for Bolivia's foreign trade with nations outside South America. The bulk of the commodities are moved through the following six ports: Santos in Brazil; Rosario and Buenos Aires in Argentina; Arica and Antofagasta in Chile; and Matarani in Peru.

42. Over 58 per cent of Bolivia's exports and imports pass through the Pacific ports. The great bulk of cargo moves by rail, partly because of the general unreliability of road transport. It is estimated that only about 4 per cent of the roads are paved. Furthermore rail offers definite cost advantages on such long hauls.

43. The road transit infrastructure should improve, with the expanded road rehabilitation programme under way. As progress in the implementation of the road development programme continues, it will be crucial to shift the emphasis to road maintenance. Experience in other regions, particularly in Africa, has demonstrated that poor road maintenance has led to rapid deterioration and given rise to a significant increase in transport costs. The major factor in this regard is the tendency to overload goods vehicles. There will therefore be an urgent need in Bolivia to set and enforce axle-load limits and to harmonize axle-load regulations with international practice. Furthermore, initiatives will have to be taken to harmonize road user charges along the international routes between the transit ports and the internal destinations in Bolivia. This will require coordination between Bolivia and the transit countries.

44. The major constraint on the rail links with Chile is the limited capacity of railways, partly due to limited availability of wagons. Within the ports the wagon handling equipment is reported to be also poor. The rail services to the ports of Rosario and Buenos Aires in Argentina are of less importance because of longer distance and poor transit arrangements. The rail service from La Paz to Matarani (Peru) is also of less significance because of the logistical problems connected with transshipment at the rail/lake interface. These poor infrastructure facilities are largely responsible for the high transit costs between the ports and the inland destinations in Bolivia, which - it is reported - are sometimes higher than the ocean freight charges.

45. Customs documentation and procedures have been a matter of concern in Bolivia and the Government, with the help of UNDP, has reviewed the current system. Proposals are now being made to introduce a change in the system. ECLAC has also assisted in streamlining the customs documentation but there is a general view that the number of documents currently in use for clearing transit cargo could still be further reduced. There is also some concern that the documentary procedures for the release of containers are cumbersome and that they need to be simplified. The "Integrated Transit System" which was introduced in April 1975 with respect to transit cargo through the Chilean ports, was designed, inter alia, to streamline all the procedural and documentary operations related to the movement of transit cargo. It has generally been regarded as a good "model". There are however now some reservations in Bolivia about its adequacy. The changes in the transit

situation, which has evolved in recent years, appear to demand a review of the system. Another major constraint is related to the inadequate professional skills among the personnel dealing with customs and transit documentation.

46. There are several administrative and non-physical barriers which cause delays and lead to additional transit costs. These include: poor facilities for the weighing of trains before departure; delays in getting off-take transport services; restrictive sanitary regulations by Chilean authorities for specific transit cargoes; cumbersome procedures for the verification of imported goods; and the requirement that rail wagons must be returned to the ports before new consignments can be dispatched, which is a problem of limited availability of wagons. The bilateral transit agreement between Chile and Bolivia addresses most of the issues but there are still weaknesses in its implementation.

47. Paraguay's access routes to international markets are mainly through Argentina and Brazil. Paraguay also uses facilities in Chile and Uruguay. About 59 per cent of the exports are transported by road, 37 per cent by waterways and 4 per cent by rail. Air freighting is still quite insignificant. With regard to imports, 66 per cent of petroleum and iron are transported by river, 32 per cent by road and only 2 per cent by rail. Paraguay uses the following routes for its exports and imports.

Road corridors: Asunción to the Brazilian seaport of Paranagua, Asunción to the Brazilian seaport of Rio Grande via Argentina, Asunción to Buenos Aires along the Paraguay River, Asunción to the seaport of Nueva Palmira (Uruguay), Asunción to the Chilean seaport of Antofagasta via Argentina, and Asunción to the seaport of Valparaíso via Argentina.

Waterways: Asunción via Pier of Plata River to Buenos Aires and Ciudad del Este via the Paraná/Paraguay/Pier of Plata Rivers to Buenos Aires.

Rail corridors: Encarnación to the seaport of Rio Grande (Brazil), Encarnación to the seaport of Nueva Palmira (Uruguay), Encarnación to Zarate (Argentina) and Encarnación to Rosario (Argentina).

48. There are major physical constraints along Paraguay's transit corridors. With regard to roads, conditions are poor and they are compounded by inadequate regulations to govern road operations, such as the lack of enforcement of axle-load limits.

49. As far as waterways are concerned, the existence of the river system is an undeniable advantage, but a number of problems are associated with a fully beneficial use of it. A very irregular series of shoals (normally taking place between November and February, but sometimes even at other times of the year) annually hamper the navigation of large ocean freighters, and often limit it to small river boats. The problem of shoals is particularly acute on the Paraguay River, and especially in the section up to Asunción. In periods of particularly low ebb, the depth of water is as little as 4 feet. A road running parallel to the worst stretches of low ebb has been built but the double transshipment involved obviously makes it an unsatisfactory solution. Besides this problem, the lack of adequate night signalling facilities along the river routes often forces shipping companies to operate only in the daytime, with subsequent losses in terms of time and resources. Donor

resources are, however, being mobilized from the Inter-American Bank and the World Bank to improve the system. Paraguay has also negotiated with Uruguay and Brazil, which are now providing free port facilities.

50. An ambitious project to develop the "Hidrovía Paraguay-Paraná" has been launched on the initiative of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. 12/ An ad hoc working group was established to study ways and means of improving navigation on the waterway, and in 1989 the Ministers of Transport of the River Plate Basin countries subscribed to the Santiago Act creating the Intergovernmental Committee for the Paraguay-Paraná Waterway, with a secretariat based in Buenos Aires. The aim is to improve the waterway through new investments, changes in the regulatory environment and the attraction of private capital. The feasibility study envisages investment to ensure year-round navigability and an expansion of the fleet of barges and tugs to provide a waterway capacity of 22 million tonnes per annum, 5 times the present amount carried. Investments required to achieve this are US$ 800 million by 2000. Complementary measures will also be taken to harmonize legislations and eliminate excessive regulation.

51. The rail infrastructure urgently needs rehabilitation. Rail equipment and wagon availability are extremely limited.

52. With respect to administrative constraints it is important to note that the transit customs documents and procedures have been improved with the establishment of the Centre for External Trade Facilitation. With the increased liberalization of exports, the documentary and procedural constraints to the movement of transit cargo should be further eased. Additional initiatives however are needed to introduce international aligned customs documents for exports and imports as well as to strengthen the Centre. Skilled manpower in the area of customs is also very scarce. Other non-physical barriers include tolls along the waterway to Buenos Aires, time-consuming change of boat crews within Argentina, delays at customs because of the shortage of customs staff, etc.

Notes

1/ More detailed information is contained in the regional and subregional papers which are also available to the Symposium (UNCTAD/LDC/90, UNCTAD/LDC/91, UNCTAD/LDC/93, UNCTAD/LDC/94 etc.). For a general discussion of the underlying transit transport issues and of the proposals for future action by the land-locked countries and their transit neighbours as well as by their development partners, see UNCTAD/LLDC/SYM/3.

2/ A full evaluation of the Entrepôts Maliens is found in World Bank, Sahel Transport Corridors: The Case of Mali, February 1989.

3/ See Transit Corridor Analysis: Central African Republic. Report prepared for UNDP/UNCTAD project RAF/88/014, November 1989.

4/ United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Facilitation of Inter-Country Road Traffic, Working Document for the Roads Sub-Sector Working Group, Addis Ababa, July 1990.

5/ For a fuller discussion of the TIR Convention, see "Customs Transit in International Road Haulage" (UNCTAD/LDC/Misc.4).

6/ See World Bank/Commission of the European Communities, "Programme d'Ajustement Structural UDEAC", Vol. 1, Documentation de Base, March 1991.

7/ A broader discussion of the use of RCTD document is found in the background document "Legal and institutional framework for transit operations: Review of the current situation and proposals for improvement" (UNCTAD/LDC/Misc.10).

8/ The Kenyan Minister of Finance, 3 years ago, reduced the time period allowed by customs to redeem the bond security from an initial period of 6 months to 45 days and the extendable further period from 3 months to 45 days.

9/ See "A preliminary study of the development of indigenous international road freight companies in Lesotho, Swaziland and Botswana" (UNCTAD/RDP/LDC/3), Geneva, 1990. The UNDP/UNCTAD transit project in southern Africa has assisted the BLS countries in their efforts to implement the Memorandum of Understanding.

10/ For a discussion of SATCC's approach to forecasting, see I.E. Smith "Southern African Sub-regional Transit Traffic Survey", in Report of Workshop on Cooperative Arrangements between Land-locked Countries and their Transit Neighbours, Maseru, Lesotho, 17-19 May 1989 (UNCTAD/RDP/LDC/21).

11/ For a more comprehensive description of the transit situation and proposals for future action see "Transit transport systems of the newly independent and developing land-locked States in Central Asia and their developing transit neighbours: current situation and proposals for future action", (A/49/277).

12/ See Integración Latinoamericana, June 1991, no. 168, pp. 1-51.

Annex I

STATISTICAL TABLES

Table 1: Selected geographical and demographic data: land-locked developing countries

Country	Area (thousands of km²)	Distance to the sea a/ (km)	Population					Labour force (percentage)	
			Total (million)	Density (population per km²)	Average life expectancy at birth (years)	Infant mortality (per 1 000 live births)	Urban (percentage)	In agriculture	In industry average
			1992	1992	1990-1995 b/	1992	1992	1992	1989-1991
Afghanistan	652.1	2 000-10 600	19.1	29	44	165	19	53	14
Bhutan	47.0	800	1.6	34	49	131	6	90	3
Bolivia	1 098.6	250-2 736	7.5	7	61	80	52	41	19
Botswana	581.7	1 100-1 400	1.3	2	61	45	27	62	5
Burkina Faso	274.0	900-1 210	9.5	35	48	101	17	84	4
Burundi	27.8	1 455-1 850	5.8	209	48	108	6	91	2
Central African Republic	623.0	1 400-1 815	3.2	5	47	105	48	61	3
Chad	1 284.0	1 715-2 015	5.8	5	48	123	34	73	5
Ethiopia	1 221.9	700-900	53.0	43	47	123	13	73	8
Lao People's Democratic Rep.	236.8	670	4.5	19	51	98	20	71	7
Lesotho	30.4	740-800	1.8	60	61	108	21	78	33
Malawi	118.5	560-700	10.4	77	44	143	12	73	3
Mali	1 240.2	1 170-1 289	9.8	8	46	122	25	80	2
Mongolia	1 566.5	..	2.3	1	64	61	59	29	21
Nepal	140.8	890	20.6	146	54	90	12	91	1
Niger	1 267.0	1 100-2 690	8.3	7	47	191	21	86	3
Paraguay	406.8	1 043-1 935	4.5	11	67	28	49	46	21
Rwanda	26.3	1 750	7.5	286	46	131	6	91	4
Swaziland	17.4	200-500	0.8	46	58	74	28	65	9
Uganda	235.9	1 450	18.7	79	42	111	12	80	4
Zambia	752.6	2 000-2 750	8.6	11	44	113	42	68	8
Zimbabwe	390.8	592-2 000	10.6	27	56	60	30	67	6
All land-locked developing countries	**12 240.0**	..	**213.9**	**17**	**49**	**115**	**20**	**74**	**7**
All developing countries	66 336.1	..	2 952.8	45	59	85	38	53	14

Source: UNCTAD secretariat calculations based on data from the United Nations Statistical Office, ECLAC, ECA, FAO, UNCTAD, UNDP and the World Bank.

a/ Distance from principal towns to main ports. The figures are the shortest and longest routes used.

b/ Projections.

Table 2: Indicators on transport a/

Country	Road network			Railways				Civil aviation			
	Total	Paved	Density	Network	Density	Freight	Passengers	Freight		Passengers	
	km	%	km/ 1 000 km^2	km	km/ 1 000 km^2	mio. ton km	mio. pass-km	Total	Intern-ational	Total	Intern-ational
								(thousand tons)		(thousands)	
Afganistan	19 010	15.1	29.2	..	..	..	..	9.9	9.5	174	65
Bolivia	41 642	4.2	37.9	3 701	3.4	510	353	8.0	7.0	1 273	376
Botswana	13 500	15.0	23.2	714	1.2	1 370	..	..	..	238	142
Burkina Faso	11 231	12.0	41.0	504	1.8	..	..	7.6	7.5	112	85
Burundi	6 285	17.5	225.8	..	..	..	..	5.8	5.8	70	70
Central Af. Rep.	23 738	1.8	38.1	..	..	..	..	13.3	13.3	84	82
Chad	27 000	1.4	21.0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ethiopia	27 972	15.0	22.9	781	0.6	148	132	29.0	17.0	480	260
Lao People's Dem.Rep.	14 093	24.1	59.5	..	..	..	..	0.6	0.3	165	59
Lesotho	4 195	20.0	138.2	..	..	..	..	..	..	43	27
Malawi	11 499	18.0	97.1	782	6.6	113	117	6.8	5.6	232	158
Mali	14 040	14.8	11.3	642	0.5	202	186	10.2	9.7	176	164
Mongolia	46 700	19.3	29.8	1 748	1.1	5 956	579	..	..	..	..
Nepal	7 401	40.8	52.6	52	0.4	..	..	17.5	17.0	800	600
Niger	11 258	29.0	8.9	..	..	..	..	5.6	5.5	97	83
Paraguay	14 783	13.5	36.4	441	1.1	14	2	..	..	..	..
Rwanda	13 173	9.0	500.2	..	..	..	..	7.1	7.1	52	47
Swaziland	2 801	..	160.1	316	18.6	5 487	1 157	0.3	0.3	90	89
Uganda	27 000	6.7	114.5	1 100	4.7	82	315	10.0	10.0	122	111
Zambia	37 359	17.6	49.6	1 924	2.6	..	..	9.4	8.7	466	302
Zimbabwe	78 400	16.5	201.0	3 415	8.8	5 287	..	65.0	64.0	1 047	713

Sources: IRU, World Transport Data, 1990;
IRF, World Road Statistics, 1987-1991, edition 1992;
ICAO, Digest of Statistics, Airport Traffic, 1991;
ESCAP, Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, 1992 and national sources.

a/ Data refer to 1991 or latest year available.

Table 3: Freight and insurance as a percentage of c.i.f. import values for selected groups of countries

		1980	1990	1991
1	**World total**	4.72	4.16	4.44
2	**Developed market economy countries**	3.66	3.34	3.49
3	**Developing countries total:**	8.93	7.84	7.87
	of which:			
		12.59	11.46	12.33
	in Africa	5.75	6.60	6.97
	America	9.62	7.56	7.44
	Asia			
4	**Land-locked developing countries:**			
	West Africa a/	28.26	27.67	26.44
	East Africa b/	25.62	27.85	26.44
	Latin America c/	16.24	17.26	17.19

Source: UNCTAD Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics, 1992.

a/ Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Mali.
b/ Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia.
c/ Bolivia, Paraguay.

Table 4: Payments to foreign carriers for transport as a proportion of total exports of goods and services for land-locked developing countries

Country	Transport payments (million dollars) 1991	Exports of goods and services: total (million dollars) 1991	Transport payments ratio (per cent) 1991
Afghanistan	92.1 b/	280.6 b/	32.8 b/
Bolivia	137.5	941.9	14.6
Botswana	102.9 c/	2 250.5 c/	4.6 c/
Burkina Faso	108.1	346.7	31.2
Burundi	42.6	126.6	33.6
Central African Republic	76.1 c/	220.3 c/	34.5 c/
Chad	118.1	241.4	48.9
Ethiopia	166.0 c/	615.5 c/	27.0 c/
Lao People's Democratic Republic	16.8	112.5	14.9
Lesotho	31.6	584.9	5.4
Malawi	167.3 a/	334.9 a/	50.0 a/
Mali	191.6	444.2	43.1
Nepal	58.6	541.4	10.8
Niger	72.7	342.4	21.2
Paraguay	232.8	1 915.0	12.2
Rwanda	43.4	142.1	30.5
Swaziland	17.7	791.7	2.2
Uganda	120.6	200.0	60.3
Zambia	201.0 b/	1 427.0 b/	14.1 b/
Zimbabwe	123.7 a/	1 872.7 a/	6.6 a/
All developing countries	62 812.3	1 011 150.8	6.2

Sources: UNCTAD secretariat, mainly based on information from OECD.
UNCTAD Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics, 1992.

a/ 1988.
b/ 1989.
c/ 1990.

Table 5 : Export value and purchasing power of exports of the land-locked developing countries

Country	Exports in 1992			Annual average growth rates (%) of :											
				Export value				Purchasing power of exports				Purchasing power of of exports per capita			
	Total $ million	Total % of GDP a	Per capita $	1970-1980	1989-1990	1990-1991	1991-1992	1970-1980	1989-1990	1990-1991	1991-1992	1970-1980	1989-1990	1990-1991	1991-1992
Afghanistan	200	2.4	10	21.2	-1.3	-10.6	-4.8	7.9	-7.8	-10.2	-9.7	6.1	-12.6	-15.9	-16.2
Bhutan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bolivia	737	17.1	98	19.9	9.5	-4.7	-14.1	6.4	2.5	-4.7	-18.4	3.8	0.0	-6.9	-20.3
Botswana	1340	37.3	1021	34.4	-9.7	5.1	-1.3	18.5	-16.1	6.6	-6.7	14.2	-18.5	3.5	-9.4
Burkina Faso	145	5.1	15	18.4	43.2	3.7	2.8	5.2	33.2	4.9	-2.2	2.8	29.7	2.0	-5.0
Burundi	60	7.9	10	17.2	-3.8	21.3	-34.1	3.4	-10.7	23.1	-37.7	1.7	-13.3	19.5	-39.5
Central African Rep.	115	5.9	36	13.4	-3.0	-43.1	55.4	1.0	-8.6	-43.4	47.2	-1.2	-11.0	-44.9	43.3
Chad	176	15.0	30	14.0	48.4	-15.7	-9.3	1.4	37.9	-15.2	-13.4	-0.6	34.8	-17.3	-15.7
Ethiopia	160	2.9	3	13.3	-35.0	-35.7	-15.3	-0.9	-40.6	-33.9	-18.9	-3.2	-42.4	-35.9	-21.3
Lao People's Dem.Rep	80	7.8	18	19.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.1	-7.2	1.4	-5.4	3.3	-10.1	-1.7	-8.3
Lesotho	65	10.4	35	26.0	-9.1	11.7	-3.0	11.1	-15.6	13.2	-8.3	8.6	-17.7	10.5	-10.5
Malawi	376	21.6	41	16.4	56.6	13.2	-20.5	3.2	44.4	14.5	-24.0	0.0	39.5	10.7	-26.6
Mali	360	14.4	37	21.1	24.7	4.7	1.7	7.2	15.5	5.9	-2.6	4.8	12.0	2.6	-5.7
Mongolia	2000	308.6	866	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nepal	350	8.1	17	9.8	31.4	30.6	28.2	-3.1	22.0	32.5	21.2	-5.6	19.0	29.2	18.3
Niger	255	10.9	31	33.8	16.0	-11.7	2.0	18.7	6.4	-9.3	-2.4	15.3	3.1	-12.2	-5.5
Paraguay	657	11.8	145	18.8	-17.5	-23.1	-10.9	3.8	-24.1	-21.4	-14.5	0.8	-26.2	-23.5	-16.8
Rwanda	68	5.9	9	21.1	24.0	-38.0	-26.9	7.5	16.3	-37.5	-31.9	4.1	12.4	-39.6	-34.2
Swaziland	608	65.7	768	16.0	10.7	9.8	4.8	2.0	2.5	11.1	-0.5	-1.0	0.0	8.2	-3.1
Uganda	160	6.6	9	4.6	-39.2	32.2	-20.4	-7.5	-43.3	31.4	-24.3	-10.2	-45.0	27.4	-26.6
Zambia	1100	24.0	128	3.5	-33.3	2.3	19.6	-8.3	-38.5	3.6	14.3	-10.9	-40.5	0.3	10.4
Zimbabwe	1180	22.0	111	12.9	-47.8	84.4	-10.3	-0.7	-51.6	86.5	-14.8	-3.7	-53.2	80.7	-17.3
All land-locked developing countries	**10192**	**16.2**	**48**	**12.9**	**-12.3**	**4.7**	**-3.1**	**-0.2**	**-18.9**	**5.9**	**-7.8**	**-2.6**	**-21.4**	**2.4**	**-10.8**
All developing countries	**841175**	**27.3**	**285**	**25.9**	**13.1**	**5.3**	**8.2**	**10.1**	**4.6**	**7.5**	**2.1**	**7.5**	**2.2**	**5.7**	**-0.1**

Source: UNCTAD secretariat calculations, mainly based on *UNCTAD Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics 1992*.

Note: Annual average growth rates are based on an exponential trend function.

a 1991 data.

Table 6 : Import value and volume of the land-locked developing countries

Country	Imports in 1992			Annual average growth rates (%) of :											
				Import value				Import volume				Import volume per capita			
	Total $ million	Total % of GDP a	Per capita $	1970-1980	1989-1990	1990-1991	1991-1992	1970-1980	1989-1990	1990-1991	1991-1992	1970-1980	1989-1990	1990-1991	1991-1992
Afghanistan	700	7.6	37	19.4	17.4	-30.6	7.7	6.3	9.7	-30.3	2.1	4.6	4.0	-34.7	-5.2
Bhutan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bolivia	1181	18.8	157	20.6	15.5	31.6	25.4	7.1	8.1	31.6	19.1	4.4	5.6	28.5	16.3
Botswana	1900	54.2	1447	28.2	31.1	0.2	-3.6	13.1	21.8	1.6	-8.9	9.0	18.3	-1.3	-11.5
Burkina Faso	470	16.3	49	21.8	30.4	7.1	4.4	8.2	21.4	8.4	-0.7	5.8	18.1	5.4	-3.5
Burundi	230	21.4	39	22.4	25.5	5.1	-7.3	8.0	16.6	6.6	-12.3	6.2	13.2	3.5	-14.8
Central African Rep.	160	11.5	50	8.9	33.3	-27.5	10.3	-3.0	25.7	-28.0	4.5	-5.1	22.4	-29.9	1.8
Chad	570	40.1	98	7.5	10.3	8.3	9.6	-4.4	2.5	8.9	4.6	-6.3	0.3	6.2	1.9
Ethiopia	470	7.1	9	15.7	12.9	-56.1	-0.4	1.2	3.2	-54.9	-4.6	-1.2	0.0	-56.3	-7.5
Lao People's Dem.Rep	170	15.1	38	2.4	3.3	0.0	9.7	-9.7	-4.1	1.4	3.7	-11.2	-7.1	-1.7	0.6
Lesotho	440	69.7	240	30.8	20.5	-15.1	-2.2	15.3	11.8	-13.9	-7.5	12.7	9.1	-16.0	-9.8
Malawi	699	32.2	77	17.1	12.8	23.0	-0.9	3.8	4.0	24.5	-5.3	0.7	0.5	20.4	-8.4
Mali	640	24.9	65	23.2	20.0	1.7	4.9	9.0	11.1	2.8	0.5	6.6	7.7	-0.4	-2.7
Mongolia	2800	432.1	1212	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nepal	780	23.4	38	18.6	18.1	15.2	-1.3	4.6	9.6	16.8	-6.6	1.9	6.9	13.9	-8.9
Niger	390	16.2	47	27.5	7.2	-4.9	5.4	13.2	-1.7	-2.3	0.9	9.9	-4.8	-5.5	-2.4
Paraguay	1422	23.4	315	24.5	94.5	8.0	-2.6	8.8	79.1	10.5	-6.6	5.7	74.0	7.5	-9.1
Rwanda	288	19.4	38	26.4	10.2	-16.6	-5.9	12.2	3.4	-16.0	-12.4	8.6	0.0	-18.8	-15.3
Swaziland	838	81.3	1058	25.5	13.7	8.3	16.7	10.4	5.3	9.5	10.8	7.1	2.7	6.6	7.9
Uganda	110	6.5	6	2.9	-24.9	-32.8	-44.2	-9.1	-29.9	-33.2	-46.9	-11.7	-32.0	-35.2	-48.5
Zambia	640	20.9	74	5.6	59.6	-35.6	-20.1	-6.4	47.1	-34.7	-23.6	-9.1	42.2	-36.8	-26.2
Zimbabwe	1500	34.0	142	10.9	13.7	9.9	-26.3	-2.5	5.3	11.2	-30.0	-5.4	1.9	7.7	-32.1
All land-locked developing countries	**16398**	**26.0**	**77**	**16.6**	**18.3**	**-3.9**	**-2.4**	**2.3**	**14.8**	**-3.9**	**-7.7**	**-0.2**	**11.2**	**-7.0**	**-10.7**
All developing countries	**878686**	**28.5**	**298**	**23.8**	**14.9**	**9.7**	**10.3**	**8.3**	**6.2**	**12.0**	**4.1**	**5.8**	**3.9**	**10.1**	**1.8**

Source: UNCTAD secretariat calculations, mainly based on *UNCTAD Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics 1992*.

Note: Annual average growth rates are based on an exponential trend function.

a 1991 data.

Table 7. Selected geographical and demographic data: land-locked CIS countries

Country	*Area (thousands of km²)*	*Distance to the sea a/ (km)*	*Population*					*Labour force (percentage)*	
			Total (million)	*Density (population per km2)*	*Life expectancy at birth (years)*	*Infant mortality (per 1000 live births)*	*Urban (percentage)*	*In agriculture*	*In industry*
			1992	*1992*	*1992*	*1992*	*1991*	*1992*	*1989-1991*
Armenia	29.8	700-1 000	3.5	117	72	29	68	11	32
Azerbaijan	86.6	1 000	7.3	84	71	37	53	15	21
Kazakhstan	2 717.3	3 500	17.0	6	69	43	58	20	22
Kyrgyzstan	198.5	3 800-10 000	4.5	23	66	49	38	16	24
Tajikistan	143.1	3 200-10 000	5.6	39	69	65	31	14	19
Turkmenistan	488.1	3 200-10 000	3.9	8	66	72	45	..	..
Uzbekistan	447.4	3 200-10 000	21.5	48	69	56	40	17	20
Total land-locked CIS countries	**4 110.8**	..	**63.2**	**15**	**69**	**50**	**47**	..	..
All land-locked developing countries (including CIS)	16 350.8	..	277.1	17	54 b/	101	26 c/	75 d/	7 d/
All developing countries	66 336.1	..	2 952.8	45	59 b/	85	38 c/	53	14

Source: UNCTAD secretariat calculations based on data from the United Nations Statistical Office, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, United Nations Demographic Yearbook 1991 and the World Bank.

a/ Distance from principal towns to main ports. The figures are the shortest and longest routes used.

b/ Data based on projections for 1990-1995.

c/ Data for 1992.

d/ Does not include data for CIS countries.

Table 8. Indicators on transport: land-locked CIS countries

Country	Road network		Railways	
	Total	Density	Network	Density
	km	km/ 1000 km^2	km	km/ 1000 km^2
Armenia	9 400	315.4	825	27.7
Azerbaijan	30 400	351.0	2 100	24.2
Kazakhstan	166 864	61.4	14 600	5.4
Kyrgyzstan	28 400	143.1	400	2.0
Tajikistan	18 300	127.9	500	3.5
Turkmenistan	22 600	46.3	2 100	4.3
Uzbekistan	59 700	133.4	3 500	7.8
Total land-locked CIS countries	**335 664**	**81.7**	**24 025**	**5.8**

Source: UNCTAD secretariat estimates based on *The Europa World Yearbook 1994* and other sources.

Table 9. Export and import values: land-locked CIS countries

Country	*Exports 1992*			*Imports 1992*		
	$ million	*% of GDP*	*$ per capita*	*$ million*	*% of GDP*	*$ per capita*
Armenia	12	0.4	3	60	2.2	17
Azerbaijan	754	12.0	104	333	5.3	46
Kazakhstan	1 398	4.9	82	469	1.6	28
Kyrgyzstan	76	2.1	17	70	1.9	15
Tajikistan	111	4.1	20	132	4.8	24
Turkmenistan	1 145	23.4	297	543	11.1	141
Uzbekistan	869	4.7	41	929	5.1	43
Total land-locked CIS countries	**4 365**	**6.5**	**69**	**2 536**	**3.8**	**40**
All land-locked developing countries (including CIS)	14 557	11.0	53	18 934	14.4	68
All developing countries	841 175	27.3	285	878 686	28.5	298

Sources: UNCTAD secretariat calculations based on United Nations *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*, September 1994; *UNCTAD Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics, 1992 and 1993*; and *World Bank Statistical Handbook, States of the former USSR, 1994.*

Annex II

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS RELEVANT TO TRANSIT TRAFFIC:
CONTRACTING PARTIES

State members of UNCTAD which are contracting parties to a selected number of key international conventions relevant to transit traffic

	1965 Transit Convention a/	GATT Article V b/	Kyoto Convention c/	TIR Convention d/	1972 Container Convention e/	1982 Frontier Control of Goods Convention f/	The Hague Convention g/	Warsaw Convention h/	CIM i/	CMR j/	1968 Road Traffic Convention k/	Hamburg Rules 1978 l/
Land-locked developing countries (Africa)												
Botswana		X						X				X
Burkina Faso	X	X						X				X
Burundi	X	X	X									
Central African Rep.	X	X									X	
Chad	X	X						X				
Lesotho	X	X	X			X						X
Malawi	X	X						X				X
Mali	X	X						X				
Niger	X	X						X			X	
Rwanda	X	X	X					X				
Swaziland	X							X				
Uganda		X	X					X				X
Zambia	X	X	X					X				X
Zimbabwe		X	X					X			X	
Transit countries (Africa)												
Algeria			X	X	X		X	X	X			
Angola							X	X				
Benin		X						X				
Cameroon		X	X				X	X				

	1965 Transit Convention a/	GATT Article V b/	Kyoto Convention c/	TIR Convention d/	1972 Container Convention e/	1982 Frontier Control of Goods Convention f/	The Hague Convention g/	Warsaw Convention h/	CIM i/	CMR j/	1968 Road Traffic Convention k/	Hamburg Rules 1978 l/
Congo		X						X				
Côte d'Ivoire		X	X				X	X			X	
Ghana		X					X	X				
Guinea							X	X				X
Kenya		X	X				X	X				X
Mauritania		X						X				
Mozambique		X					X	X				
Nigeria	X	X	X					X				X
Senegal		X	X				X	X				X
South Africa		X	X			X					X	
Sudan												
Tanzania, United Republic of		X					X	X				X
Togo		X										
Zaire		X					X	X			X	
Land-locked countries (Asia)												
Afghanistan				X				X				
Bhutan												
Lao PDR	X							X				
Mongolia	X							X				
Nepal	X							X				

	1965 Transit Convention a/	GATT Article V b/	Kyoto Convention c/	TIR Convention d/	1972 Container Convention e/	1982 Frontier Control of Goods Convention f/	The Hague Convention g/	Warsaw Convention h/	CIM i/	CMR j/	1968 Road Traffic Convention k/	Hamburg Rules 1978 l/
Transit countries (Asia)												
China			X		X			X				
Cambodia								X				
India		X	X					X				
Iran, Islamic Rep. of				X			X	X			X	
Pakistan		X	X					X			X	
Russian Federation	X			X	X	X		X		X	X	
Thailand		X										
Viet Nam								X				
Land-locked countries (Latin America)												
Bolivia		X										
Paraguay							X	X				
Transit countries (Latin America)												
Argentina		X					X	X				
Brazil		X						X			X	
Chile	X	X		X								X
Peru		X					X					

a/ Convention on Transit Trade of Land-locked countries, 1965.

b/ General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

c/ International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures.

d/ Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention).

e/ Customs Convention on Containers, 1972.

f/ International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods.

g/ International Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules Relating to Bills of Lading.

h/ Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules Relating to International Carriage by Air.

i/ International Convention concerning the Carriage of Goods by Rail (CIM).

j/ Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR).

k/ Convention on Road Traffic, 1968.

l/ United Nations Convention on the Carriage of Goods by Sea, 1978.

Annex III

SUBREGIONAL AND BILATERAL TRANSIT AGREEMENTS

Subregional and bilateral agreements between land-locked developing countries and their transit neighbours relating to transit rail, road and port facilities

Land-locked developing countries	Subregional and/or bilateral transit agreements	Free trade areas	Customs unions	Currency unions	Joint ownership railways	Inter-railway agreements	Bilateral agreements on ports	Exclusive port facility countries
Botswana	SACU a/ MOU b/	SADC c/	SACU c/					
Burkina Faso	TRIE h/ Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Togo, Benin	CEAO d/ ECOWAS e/		BCEAO k/		Côte d'Ivoire	Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin	Côte d'Ivoire
Burundi	NCTA j/ Tanzania	PTA f/					NCTA Tanzania	Tanzania
Central African Republic	Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea	UDEAC	UDEAC	Cameroon, Congo				Congo, Cameroon
Chad	Algeria, Cameroon, Central African Rep., Congo	UDEAC g/	UDEAC	Cameroon, Central African Rep., Congo				Congo
Lesotho	SACU, MOU	SADC, PTA	SACU	RMU				
Malawi	Tanzania, Mozambique, Zambia	SADC, PTA				Mozambique	Tanzania, Mozambique	Tanzania, Mozambique
Mali	TRIE, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Burkina Faso	ECOWAS, CEAO		BCEAO		Senegal	Togo, Benin, Mauritania, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal	Togo, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal
Niger	TRIE, Benin, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire	ECOWAS, CEAO		BCEAO			Benin, Togo, Nigeria	Benin, Nigeria
Rwanda	NCTA	PTA					NCTA, Tanzania	Tanzania
Swaziland	SACU, MOU	SADC, PTA	SACU	RMU		Mozambique		Mozambique
Uganda	NCTA	PTA				Kenya, Tanzania	NCTA, Tanzania	
Zambia	Tanzania	SADC, PTA			Tanzania	Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zaire, South Africa	Tanzania	
Zimbabwe	Mozambique	SADC, PTA				Zambia, Mozambique, South Africa	Mozambique	Mozambique

Land-locked developing countries	Subregional and/or bilateral transit agreements	Free trade areas	Customs unions	Currency unions	Joint ownership railways	Inter-railway agreements	Bilateral agreements on ports	Exclusive port facility countries
Afghanistan	Iran, Pakistan, Russian Federation							Pakistan
Bhutan	India	India	India	India				
Lao PDR	Thailand						Thailand, Viet Nam	Thailand
Mongolia	Russian Federation, China				Russian Federation			
Nepal	India						India, Bangladesh	India
Bolivia	Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru	ALADI i/			Chile		Chile, Peru	Chile, Peru
Paraguay	Argentina	ALADI, Argentina, Brazil						Argentina

a/ SACU Southern African Customs Union
b/ MOU Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland
c/ SADC Southern African Development Community
d/ CEAO West African Economic Community
e/ ECOWAS Economic Community of West African States
f/ PTA Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States
g/ UDEAC Central African Customs and Economic Union
h/ TRIE Convention relating to inter-state road transit of goods
i/ ALADI Latin American Integration Association
j/ NCTA Northern Corridor Transit Agreement
k/ BCEAO Central Bank of West African States
l/ RMU Rand Monetary Union